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Note by the Secretary-General*

Addendum

Contents

Page

Oxfam Great Britain. 2

* The present document represents the final outcome of a complex exchange of correspondence with the non-governmental organization.

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Oxfam Great Britain

Special consultative status granted in 1973

Introduction

Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering. Its principal objectives are to relieve poverty, distress and suffering in any part of the world and to educate the public concerning the nature, causes and effects of poverty.

Oxfam spends its resources on:

- Social development, health, humanitarian projects and emergency programmes in over 70 countries
- Advocacy, education and campaigning work on issues which are central to the achievement of Oxfam's objectives.

Oxfam raises money principally from individuals, public appeals and a network of shops in the United Kingdom and from public grants, particularly from the British Government, the European Union and the United Nations. Funding totals and sources fluctuate somewhat from year to year depending primarily on the requirements for humanitarian assistance. Total available funds were typically £100 million annually during the period under review. There was no significant change in funding during the period.

Oxfam has sister organizations in 11 countries. The organization changed from Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland to Oxfam Great Britain in 1998, creating two additional closely linked organizations in the north and south of Ireland.

A primary focus for Oxfam during the period under review was the needs of the people in the Great Lakes region of Africa. The organization ran very substantial programmes in the region with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and carried out advocacy work, including presentations to the Security Council, concerning related United Nations peacekeeping activities. Work with United Nations agencies also supported people in the Balkans, Angola, the Sudan and other parts of the world.

The present report gives just a few examples of Oxfam's cooperation with the United Nations, divided into two broad areas: participation in policy development and advocacy, and practical work on humanitarian and development projects. These two elements of the work are closely intertwined.

Participation in meetings of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

- Throughout the period under review, Oxfam was active in advocating support for Rwanda and the Great Lakes area, as well as implementing the humanitarian programmes outlined below. The advocacy included efforts to persuade the Security Council to deploy a peace-enforcement operation in 1994 and support for UNHCR's attempt to persuade the Security Council to separate fighters from refugees among the Rwandans in Zaire. There were two

Oxfam presentations to the Security Council on the Great Lakes crisis, in October 1996 and February 1997.

- Throughout the Bosnian war Oxfam worked closely with UNHCR and the United Nations Protection Force, urging Governments to do more to protect civilians in the conflict.
- Oxfam delivered a briefing paper for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, drawing together the organization's experience of working with the United Nations in conflicts from Cambodia to Somalia.
- One of Oxfam's technical team coordinators attended the meetings of the UNHCR Executive Committee every year.
- Oxfam participated in a number of meetings in which a review of the Inhumane Weapons Convention and the ban on landmines were being negotiated.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In terms of practical work in the field, Oxfam is a major partner of United Nations agencies including UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Children's Fund. Over the four-year period, UNHCR provided funding of about £28 million, and Oxfam distributed food for WFP worth over £17 million. Oxfam also raised substantial funds from Governments and private sources to support this humanitarian work. The following is a small selection of Oxfam's programmes with the United Nations.

- Throughout the period, Oxfam undertook major operations with UNHCR in the Great Lakes area of Africa, one of its largest-ever programmes, dealing with the movement of 1.5 million people. Oxfam assisted with the physical planning. Then, focusing primarily on its expertise in the provision of water and sanitation services, Oxfam worked at several sites in Zaire, Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania. Following the closure of the camps in Goma, Oxfam also worked in Zaire attempting to help people who fled further into that country rather than return to Rwanda.
- In the Balkans, Oxfam had a widespread presence and provided a range of support during the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and later in Albania and Macedonia. As well as providing water and sanitation services, Oxfam worked on housing and resettlement, supported people in re-establishing their livelihoods and helped local organizations build capacity. Oxfam also worked with UNHCR preparing responses to the expected deterioration in other parts of the region.
- In Georgia, Oxfam worked with UNHCR to support people displaced from the Abkhazia area, finding refugees and providing them with water and means of sanitation.
- In Azerbaijan, Oxfam worked for UNHCR to find and support the 1 million refugees and internally displaced people resulting from the war in Armenia, providing water and means of sanitation. Oxfam also built houses and distributed clothing.

- Oxfam distributed food with WFP in the Red Sea Hills area of the Sudan.
- At the request of UNHCR, Oxfam provided renewed and improved water systems for refugees in the Sahara area of Algeria.
- In Guinea, Oxfam worked with UNHCR to support people fleeing from Sierra Leone.
- Oxfam provided water and means of sanitation to Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda, setting up a new camp in Ikafe with UNHCR after the first camp was attacked.